



APRIL QUARTERLY REPORT NOTICE

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
PARTIES AND PACS

March 22, 2012

CURRENT REPORT DUE

REPORT	CLOSE OF BOOKS ¹	REG./CERT. & OVERNIGHT MAILING DEADLINE	FILING DEADLINE
April Quarterly	03/31/12	04/15/12	04/15/12 ²

REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR REMAINDER OF 2012

REPORT	CLOSE OF BOOKS ¹	REG./CERT. & OVERNIGHT MAILING DEADLINE	FILING DEADLINE
July Quarterly	06/30/12	07/15/12	07/15/12 ²
October Quarterly	09/30/12	10/15/12	10/15/12
Pre-General ³	10/17/12	10/22/12	10/25/12
Post-General	11/26/12	12/06/12	12/06/12
Year-End	12/31/12	01/31/13	01/31/13

Supplemental Filing Information is available:

- [Congressional Committees](#)
- [Parties and PACs](#)

¹A reporting period always begins the day after the closing date of the last report filed. If the committee is new and has not previously filed a report, the first report must cover all activity that occurred before the committee registered up through the close of books for the first report due.

² Notice that this filing date falls on a weekend. Filing deadlines are not extended when they fall on nonworking days. Accordingly, reports filed by methods other than Registered, Certified or Overnight Mail, or electronically, must be received before the Commission's (or for committees supporting only Senate candidates, the Secretary of Senate's) close of business on the last business day before the deadline.

³ **Parties and PACs:** required only if committee makes contributions or expenditures in connection with the general election during the reporting period. [11 CFR 104.5\(c\)\(1\)\(ii\)](#).
Congressional Committees: the principal campaign committee of a candidate who participates in the general election must file pre-and post-general election reports. [11 CFR 104.5\(a\)\(2\)](#).

2012 SUPPLEMENTAL FILING INFORMATION CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

PLEASE NOTE: The Commission provides reminders of upcoming filing dates as a courtesy to help committees comply with the filing deadlines set forth in the Act and Commission regulations. Committee treasurers must comply with all applicable filing deadlines established by law, and the lack of prior notice does not constitute an excuse for failing to comply with any filing deadline.

WHO MUST FILE

Principal campaign committees of congressional candidates ¹ (including unopposed candidates and candidates whose names do not appear on the ballot) must file Quarterly Reports in 2012. ²

Campaigns that raise or spend more than \$5,000 for the 2012 election cycle (and thus trigger registration and reporting requirements) must file quarterly reports throughout 2012, even if the candidate plans to retire, withdraws from the race prior to the primary election, loses the primary or drops out of the race prior to the general election. See [11 CFR 104.5\(a\)\(2\)](#).

Before a committee can stop filing with the FEC, it must file a termination report with the Commission. See [11 CFR 102.3](#). Committees must continue to file reports until the Commission notifies them in writing that their termination report has been accepted.

METHODS OF FILING REPORTS

Electronic Filing

Reports filed electronically must be received and validated by the Commission by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the filing deadline. See [11 CFR 104.5\(e\)](#). See also [11 CFR 104.18](#) and [100.19](#).

- Web Page: [Electronic Filing Page](#)
- [Campaign Guide for Congressional Candidates and Committees \(Candidate Guide\)](#), pp. 83-86 [PDF]

Paper Filing - Meeting the Filing Deadline

Paper Report filing options -- Registered, Certified or Overnight or First Class Mail. See [11 CFR 104.5\(e\)](#). See also [11 CFR 100.19](#).

- Web Page: [Link to Paper Forms](#) (for downloading and printing)
- [Candidate Guide, p. 82](#) [PDF]

¹ Generally, an individual becomes a candidate for federal office (and thus triggers registration and reporting obligations) when his or her campaign exceeds \$5,000 in either contributions or expenditures. If the campaign has not crossed the \$5,000 threshold, it is not required to file reports. See [11 CFR 100.3\(a\)](#). See also [11 CFR 104.5\(a\)](#).

² If a candidate has more than one authorized committee, the principal campaign committee files a consolidated report on [Form 3Z](#) [PDF]. See [11 CFR 104.3\(f\)](#).

PRE- AND POST-ELECTION REPORTS

The principal campaign committee of any candidate participating in a 2012 state primary, nominating convention or runoff election -- even if unopposed -- must also file a pre-election report 12 days prior to the primary, nominating convention or runoff. The principal campaign committee of a candidate who participates in the general election must file pre- and post-general election reports. See [11 CFR 104.5\(a\)\(2\)](#).

- Web Page: [2012 Congressional Pre-Primary Reporting Dates](#)
- The Record:
 - [FEC Record Blog: Reporting](#)
 - [January 2012 issue](#) [PDF]
- [Candidate Guide, pp. 81-82](#) [PDF]

48 HOUR NOTICES OF CONTRIBUTIONS

The principal campaign committee must file notices if any authorized committees receive any contribution (**including in-kind gifts or advances of goods or services; loans from the candidate or other non-bank sources; and guarantees or endorsements of bank loans to the candidate or committee**) of \$1,000 or more per source, during the period less than 20 days but more than 48 hours before any election in which the candidate is running. See [11 CFR 104.5\(f\)](#).

The notices must reach the appropriate federal filing office within 48 hours of the committee's receipt of the contribution(s). **Campaign committees that file electronically MUST submit their 48-hour notices electronically.** See [11 CFR 104.5\(f\)](#).

- Web Page: [Electronic Filing Page](#)
- Web Page: [Link to Paper Forms](#) (for downloading and printing)
- Web Page: [Link to Web Form 6](#) (for online submission)
- Form 6 Fax numbers
 - Senate campaigns (Secretary of the Senate): (202) 224-1851
 - House Campaigns (FEC): (202) 219-0174
- Campaign Guide: [Candidate Guide, p. 81](#) [PDF]

2012 REPORTING SCHEDULE

- Web Page: [2012 Reporting Dates Page](#)
- The Record:
 - [FEC Record Blog: Reporting](#)
 - [January 2012 issue](#) [PDF]
- [Candidate Guide, p. 83](#) [PDF]

COMPLIANCE

Treasurer Responsibility

Committee Treasurers are responsible for both the timeliness and the accuracy of all reports. They may be subject to monetary penalties if reports are inaccurate or are not filed on time. See [11 CFR 104.14\(d\)](#).

- [Statement of Policy Regarding Treasurers Subject to Enforcement Proceedings](#) [PDF]
- [Candidate Guide, p. 7-9](#) [PDF]

Administrative Fine Program

Political committees and their treasurers who fail to file their reports on time may be subject to civil money penalties up to \$17,600 (or more for repeat late- and non-filers).³ See generally, [11 CFR Part 111 Subpart B](#). See also [11 CFR 111.43](#).

- Web Page: [Administrative Fine Program](#)
- [Candidate Guide, pp. 82-83](#) [PDF]

DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYIST BUNDLING ACTIVITY

Campaign committees must file [FEC Form 3L](#) [PDF] if they receive two or more bundled contributions from lobbyists/registrants or lobbyist/registrant PACs that aggregate in excess of the lobbyist bundling disclosure threshold during the applicable reporting period ([see page 1 of this notice](#)). See [11 CFR 104.22](#) and [11 CFR 110.17\(f\)](#).

NOTE: The lobbyist bundling disclosure threshold for calendar year 2011 is \$16,200. This threshold amount may increase in 2012 based upon the annual cost of living adjustment (COLA). Once the adjusted threshold amount becomes available, the Commission will publish it in the *Federal Register* and post it on its website. See [11 CFR 110.17\(e\)\(2\)](#).

- The Record: [March 2009 issue](#) [PDF]
- [Candidate Guide, Appendix F, pp. 155-161](#) [PDF]

IMPORTANT FILING INFORMATION - PAPER FILERS

In response to the 2001 anthrax threat, the U.S. Postal Service is irradiating mail directed to many federal agencies, including the FEC and the Secretary of the Senate.⁴ This process has not only delayed mail delivery, it has also damaged and in some cases destroyed pieces of mail. As a result, committees that file reports with the FEC may want to consider submitting their reports by some means other than U.S. mail. Alternative methods include electronic filing, overnight mail or delivery service, and hand delivery.

³ Penalties for late- or non-filing of 48-hour notices are based on the amount of contributions not timely disclosed. As a result, these penalties may exceed \$17,600, even for first-time violations.

⁴ Senate committees should contact the Secretary of the Senate at (202) 224-0322 for more information on filing reports via US mail.

FOR INFORMATION, CALL: (800) 424-9530 or (202) 694-1100

2012 SUPPLEMENTAL FILING INFORMATION PACs AND PARTY COMMITTEES

PLEASE NOTE: The Commission provides reminders of upcoming filing dates as a courtesy to help committees comply with the filing deadlines set forth in the Act and Commission regulations. Committee treasurers must comply with all applicable filing deadlines established by law, and the lack of prior notice does not constitute an excuse for failing to comply with any filing deadline.

WHO MUST FILE

All Party Committees and PACs (Nonconnected Committees and Separate Segregated Funds) must file either quarterly or monthly reports in 2012. See [11 CFR 104.5\(c\)](#). Before a committee can stop filing with the FEC, it must file a termination report with the Commission. See [11 CFR 102.3](#). Committees must continue to file reports until the Commission notifies them in writing that their termination report has been accepted.

METHODS OF FILING REPORTS

Electronic Filing

Reports filed electronically must be received and validated by the Commission by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the filing deadline. See [11 CFR 104.5\(e\)](#). See also [11 CFR 104.18](#) and [100.19](#).

- Web Page: [Electronic Filing Page](#)
- Campaign Guide: [Nonconnected Committees \(Nonconnected\), pp. 51-53](#) [PDF]; [Corporations and Labor Organizations \(SSF\), pp. 49-51](#) [PDF]; [Political Party Committees \(Party\), pp. 69-71](#) [PDF].

Paper Filing -- Meeting the Filing Deadline

Paper report filing options – Registered, Certified or Overnight or First Class Mail. See [11 CFR 104.5\(e\)](#). See also [11 CFR 100.19](#).

- Web Page: [Link to Paper Forms](#) (for downloading and printing)
- Campaign Guide: [Nonconnected, pp. 47-48](#) [PDF]; [SSF, pp. 45-46](#) [PDF]; [Party, p. 65](#) [PDF].

CHANGE IN FILING FREQUENCY

Committees able to change their reporting schedule (for example, from monthly to quarterly) who wish to do so must notify the Commission in writing and may change their filing frequency no more than once per calendar year. See [11 CFR 104.5\(c\)](#).

- Web Page: [Filing Frequency by Type of Committee](#)
- Campaign Guide: [Nonconnected, p. 51](#) [PDF]; [SSF, p. 49](#) [PDF]; [Party, p. 67](#) [PDF].

2012 REPORTING SCHEDULE

- Web Page: [2012 Reporting Dates Page](#)
- The Record:
 - [FEC Record Blog: Reporting](#)
 - [January 2012 issue](#) [PDF]
- Campaign Guide: [Nonconnected, pp. 49-51](#) [PDF]; [SSF, pp. 46-48](#) [PDF]; [Party, pp. 67-68](#) [PDF].

PRE-ELECTION REPORTING

Quarterly filing committees that make contributions or expenditures (including independent expenditures) in connection with an election must also file a Pre-Election Report, if the activity was not previously reported. See [11 CFR 104.5\(c\)\(1\)\(ii\)](#).

- Web Page: [2012 Congressional Pre-Primary Reporting Dates Page](#)
- The Record:
 - [FEC Record Blog: Reporting](#)
 - [January 2012 issue](#) [PDF]
- Campaign Guide: [Nonconnected, pp. 49-51](#) [PDF]; [SSF, pp. 46-48](#) [PDF]; [Party, pp. 67-68](#) [PDF].

COMPLIANCE

Treasurer Responsibility

Committee treasurers are responsible for both the timeliness and the accuracy of all reports. They may be subject to monetary penalties if reports are inaccurate or are not filed on time. See [11 CFR 104.14\(d\)](#).

- [Statement of Policy Regarding Treasurers Subject to Enforcement Proceeding](#) [PDF]
- Campaign Guide: [Nonconnected, pp. 3-4](#) [PDF]; [SSF, pp. 1-2](#) [PDF]; [Party, pp. 6-7](#) [PDF].

Administrative Fine Program

Failure to file reports on time may be subject to civil money penalties up to \$17,600 (or more for repeat late- or non-filers). See [11 CFR 111.43\(b\)](#). See generally, [11 CFR Part 111 Subpart B](#). See also [11 CFR 111.43](#).

- Web Page: [Administrative Fine Program Page](#)
- Campaign Guide: [Nonconnected, pp. 48-49](#) [PDF]; [SSF, p. 46](#) [PDF]; [Party, p. 66](#) [PDF].

DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYIST BUNDLING ACTIVITY

Party committees and Leadership PACs must file [FEC Form 3L](#) [PDF] if they receive two or more bundled contributions from lobbyists/registrants or lobbyist/registrant PACs that aggregate in excess of lobbyist bundling disclosure threshold during the applicable reporting period ([see page 1 of this notice](#)). See 11 CFR [104.22](#) and 11 CFR [110.17\(f\)](#).

The lobbyist bundling disclosure threshold for calendar year 2011 is \$16,200. This threshold amount may change in 2012 based upon the annual cost of living adjustment (COLA). Once the adjusted threshold amount becomes available, the Commission will publish it in the Federal Register and post it on its website. See [11 CFR 110.17\(e\)\(2\)](#).

- The Record: [March 2009 issue](#) [PDF]

48- AND 24-HOUR REPORTS OF INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES

Any PAC or Party Committee that makes independent expenditures in 2012 may have to disclose this activity within 48- or 24-hours based upon the date and amount of the expenditure.

See [11 CFR 104.4\(b\)\(2\) and \(c\)](#). See generally, [11 CFR 104.4](#).

- Web Page: [State-by-state chart of 2012 48- and 24-hour periods for independent expenditures](#)
- Campaign Guide: [Nonconnected, pp. 72-74](#) [PDF]; [SSF, pp. 65-67](#) [PDF]; [Party, pp. 87-89](#) [PDF].

These reports are not required when a PAC or Party Committee makes a contribution directly to a candidate.

FOR INFORMATION, CALL: (800) 424-9530 or (202) 694-1100